

UNCLASSIFIED  
Department of State

INCOMING  
TELEGRAM

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PAGE 01  
ACTION IO-15

GENEVA 02019 261745Z

2/26/81

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INFO	OCT-01	ADS-00	AID-07	INR-10	EUR-12	SS-15	OIC-02
	AF-10	CIAE-00	EA-12	DODE-00	H-01	NEA-07	NSCE-00
	ARA-16	NSAE-00	SSO-00	HA-06	L-03	TRSE-00	PM-07
	PA-02	INRE-00	ICAE-00	SP-02	SPRS-02	/130 W	

-----145201 270033Z /43

O 261742Z FEB 81  
FM USMISSION GENEVA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4777  
INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

UNCLAS GENEVA 02019

E.O. 12065: N/A  
TAGS: SHUM, UNHRC, AR  
SUBJECT: UN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION: ARGENTINA (ITEM 10B)

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF STATEMENT ON ARGENTINA (DISAPPEARANCES, ITEM 10B) DELIVERED BY USREP NOVAK TO HRC FEBRUARY 26.

BEGIN TEXT:

MR. CHAIRMAN, MY DELEGATION HAS JOINED THE CONSENSUS ON THIS RESOLUTION EXTENDING THE LIFE OF THE WORKING GROUP ON MISSING AND DISAPPEARED PERSONS FOR ANOTHER YEAR. WE JOIN WITH OTHERS IN PRAISING THE INTELLIGENCE, JUDGMENT AND DISCRETION OF ITS PRESENT MEMBERS. WE WOULD ALSO LIKE TO CLARIFY THE POSITION OF THE UNITED STATES ON THIS SUBJECT, AS A GOVERNMENT WHICH BELIEVES IN THE RULE OF LAW, INCLUDING DUE PROCESS. WE ARE PROFOUNDLY CONCERNED WITH THE VIOLATION OF FUNDAMENTAL LEGAL RIGHTS.

WE NOTE, HOWEVER, THAT THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION HAS AS YET NO SIMILAR WORKING GROUP LOOKING INTO OTHER SERIOUS HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN THE WORLD, SUCH AS PENAL LABOR CAMPS, THE ABUSE OF MENTAL HOSPITALS FOR POLITICAL PURPOSES, AND POLITICAL EXILE UNDER BRUTAL CONDITIONS. HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS ARE REPREHENSIBLE WHEREVER THEY OCCUR. WE DO NOT GO FAR ENOUGH WHEN WE SINGLE OUT THIS ONE CATEGORY OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS, WHILE GROSS VIOLATIONS THAT OCCUR ELSEWHERE DO NOT RECEIVE THE SAME SPOTLIGHT OF ATTENTION.

IN NON-TOTALITARIAN SOCIETIES, INFORMATION ON ABUSES IS USUALLY QUITE READILY AVAILABLE. IN CLOSED TOTALITARIAN SOCIETIES, SUCH INFORMATION IS MUCH MORE DIFFICULT TO OBTAIN. THE UNFORTUNATE RESULT IS THAT WE TEND TO SPEND MORE TIME CRITICIZING THOSE COUNTRIES THAT ARE PARTLY FREE, AND MAKING PROGRESS TOWARDS MORE FREEDOM, THAN THOSE WHERE LITTLE FREEDOM EXISTS.

WE ARE DETERMINED IN THIS COMMISSION AND ELSEWHERE TO FOCUS OUR ATTENTION ON ALL HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES WHEREVER THEY OCCUR, INCLUDING COUNTRIES WHERE IT IS DIFFICULT TO GET AT THE FACT.

FOR THESE REASONS, THE U.S. HAS CONCURRED IN THIS RESOLUTION. WE BELIEVE IT IS IMPORTANT TO NOTE THAT SEVERAL COUNTRIES THE WORKING GROUP HAS REVIEWED HAVE MADE DRAMATIC AND ENCOURAGING--BUT NOT YET COMPLETE--PROGRESS IN ELIMINATING HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS. WE BELIEVE NO USEFUL PURPOSE CAN BE SERVED BY PUBLIC CONDEMNATIONS. WE WISH TO ENCOURAGE ALL SOCIETIES WHICH ARE ATTEMPTING TO IMPROVE OBSERVANCE OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND RESTORE CONSTITUTIONAL ORDER.

END TEXT. HELMAN

AQ 040

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)  
U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS  
Margaret P. Griefeld, Director  
☒ Release ☐ Excise ☐ Deny  
Exemption(s):  
Declassify: ☐ In Part ☐ In Full  
☐ Classify as ☐ Extend as ☐ Downgrade to  
Date ☐ Declassify on ☐ Reason

Lot 82D275  
Box 3541  
(2/17)

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